

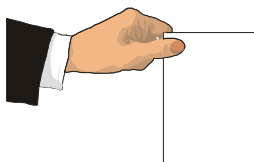
transactions

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION · UPTRAN · PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION DIVISION

Spring 2001

Routing Slip

____ Managers
 ____ Supervisors
 ____ Mechanics
 ____ Drivers



Please share the *Passenger TransActions* with other members of your staff. Don't let it get buried on your desk.

New Contracting Process Begins October 1, 2001

A new State contracting process which significantly affects the way the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) handles legal agreements with transit agencies begins October 1, 2001. This new process involves a multi-year master agreement and individual project authorizations allocating funds from most MDOT and federal programs. Excluded from the master agreement are Section 5310, Rideshare/Vanpool, Intercity and Marine programs. The master agreements are scheduled for mailing in June 2001 for local approval and signatures and are due back to MDOT in mid-September.

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Several meetings will be conducted during May and June and attendance is encouraged at one of these informational sessions scheduled throughout the state. These sessions will provide an opportunity for transit agencies, prime contractors and MDOT representatives to review the new process, and discuss changes within the agreement and the different agreement resolutions available to transit agencies. Transit agency board members and other stakeholders are encouraged to attend. Check the schedule below for a session near you.

May 15	Grand Rapids
May 16	Jackson
May 17	Kalamazoo
May 18	Flint
May 30	Marquette
May 31	Grayling
May 31	Mt. Pleasant
June 6	Detroit

(continued on page two)

New Contracting Process

(continued from page one)

The new process is anticipated to reduce both the paperwork and the effort involved in executing and administering contracts. Problems with the current contracting process were identified in responses to the Public Transit Strategic Plan survey and in business process improvements conducted internally at MDOT. Earlier this year, the Management Advisory Team initiated a massive undertaking to explore streamlining the contracting process. After investigating a number of options, the Management Advisory Team developed this master agreement process.

Check the PTD Web site for the April draft master agreement and the session registration information under the "What's New" section (www.mdot.state.mi.us/uptran/PTD/index.htm). Your PTD project manager is also available to assist with additional questions or information.

Vehicle Meetings Held Around the State

Recently, PTD's Technical Assistance Unit met with transit agencies around the state regarding vehicles purchased off the state contracts with Hoekstra Transportation, Inc. for ElDorado National buses. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss vehicle specifications, warranty, service and communication issues. Fifty-four people from 35 agencies participated in the meetings held in Mackinaw City, Alma, and Jackson.

There will be three follow-up meetings to provide an opportunity for transit agencies, Hoekstra Transportation, Inc., ElDorado National, and state personnel to further discuss and offer solutions to issues raised at the previous meetings. The meeting dates and locations are:

May 30	Marquette
May 31	Grayling
June 4	Lansing

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Al Johnson at 517/335-2549 or by E-mail at johnsonal@mdot.state.mi.us.

Register Now for the TV&E Seminar

Make your plans now to attend the Transit Vehicle and Equipment (TV&E) Seminar June 13-15, 2001, at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center at Higgins Lake, Michigan. The seminar kicks off at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 13, followed by lunch at noon and the vendor show from 1:00-4:30 p.m. A vendor reception will be held on Wednesday night at the Holiday Inn in Grayling.



Transit agency registration information was mailed in mid-April. If you did not receive the registration information, please contact Jill Adams at 517/373-2051 or by E-mail at adamsji@mdot.state.mi.us.

DMB Approves Vehicle Disposal Options

The Michigan Department of Management & Budget (DMB) has granted MDOT the authority to allow transit agencies to locally sell transit vehicles when one of the following procedures is used:

1. The transit agency obtains an estimated fair market value from a reputable dealer or from the Passenger Transportation Division. The vehicle can be sold to anyone at that price.
2. Auction by local auctioneer.
3. Competitive bid. Advertise in a local newspaper for written bids and sell to the highest bidder.
4. Any other standard local government procedure.

In addition to these options, transit agencies may elect to sell their vehicles at one of DMB's scheduled auctions. DMB charges a fee for this auction service, and requires that the vehicles run.

For additional information regarding these options, please contact Manny Stock at 517/373-7098 or by E-mail at stockm@mdot.state.mi.us. If you need information on upcoming auctions, you may contact DMB directly at 517/ 335-8444 or visit their Web site at www.state.mi.us/dmb/mgmtserv/oss.



TCRP Report Offers Innovative Solutions in Communicating with Persons with Disabilities

The Transportation Research Board issued Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) Synthesis 37 entitled, "Communicating with Persons with Disabilities in a Multimodal Transit Environment." The synthesis report identified current practices in information and communication technologies, conducted an extensive literature review, and surveyed selected transit agencies to obtain information on practical or innovative solutions in communicating with people with disabilities.

The report may be ordered through the Internet at www.nationalacademies.org/trb/bookstore or is available from the Transportation Research Board, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418.

Denny Papoi Retires

Congratulations to Denny Papoi, unit supervisor of the Nonurban Unit in the Transportation Services Section, on his retirement from UPTRAN. Denny assisted many transit agencies with starting up their initial service and all these agencies remain in operation today. He also made tremendous strides for public transit with his knowledge of transit facility and ferryboat construction. One event that benefitted from Denny's assistance is Michigan's Small Bus Roadeo. Denny's dedication to providing quality service to the transit community will be missed.

PTD Annual Meeting "Takes a New Look" and Name

The theme of the Passenger Transportation Division's Annual Meeting is "Take a New Look." We start our new look by changing the meeting's name to the Michigan Transit Conference. The conference will be held October 8-10, 2001, at the Valley Plaza Resort Hotel and Convention Center in Midland.

An added feature of this year's conference is a photo contest. Watch your mail in mid-May for contest rules and an entry form attached to the conference flyer.

The registration brochure is scheduled to be mailed in mid-August. If you do not receive one, contact Linda Tuttle at 517/373-7645 or by E-mail at tuttle@mdot.state.mi.us.

New Freedom Initiative Included in Federal Budget

Two new transportation programs for people with disabilities will be included in President Bush's budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2001. The programs are part of the "New Freedom Initiative" which provides assistance to people with disabilities in various areas including transportation, education, employment, and technology. The two programs include:

Pilot Programs for Innovative Transportation - \$45 million to promote innovative transportation solutions for people with disabilities. The selected pilots, managed by state or local governments in regional, urban, and rural areas, will be evaluated after three years with the successful initiatives expanded to other areas.

Matching Grants for Alternative Transportation - \$100 million in competitive matching grants to promote access to alternative methods of transportation, such as purchase and operation of specialty vans, and assisting people with down payments or costs associated with accessible vehicles.

Additional information for these two programs will be shared in a future issue of the Passenger TransActions or through an E-mail broadcast to transit agencies.



New Faces in PTD's Financial Management Unit

The Program Administration Section's Financial Management Unit (FMU) provides financial control of PTD programs and the performance of division-wide administrative functions. It is not a coincidence that almost all Unit staff members are new to the Division, having joined it in the last five years. Unit functions were re-engineered and staff positions were established or changed in the late 1990's to achieve alignment with Project MAIN, the state's financial and administrative information system, and with MDOT's contract administration process. The FMU unit is supervised by **Angel Fandialan** who may be contacted at 517/335-2577 or by E-mail at fandialana@mdot.state.mi.us.

Lori Cole is the Financial Specialist and Budget Coordinator and provides financial administration for the passenger bus, marine, and intercity transportation programs. This includes financial control/oversight of the budgeting, contracting and expenditure of over \$200 million a year. She is responsible for the financial monitoring and oversight of grant contracts initiated by project managers to ensure consistency with funding decisions made by the bureau deputy director. Lori also provides related expert advice to bureau staff. Lori may be contacted at 517/335-2556 or by E-mail at colel@mdot.state.mi.us.

Julie Benvenuto is the division's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) specialist. The DBE Program is a federally-mandated program authorized by 49 CFR, Part 26 which attempts to "level the playing field" for minority and women-owned businesses to participate in the federal funds granted to Michigan through FTA and FHWA. Julie handles the quarterly/annual monitoring and reporting required under these regulations. She is also UPTRAN's alternate member on the Department/OEO's DBE Certification Team which reviews applications from potential DBEs and recommends approval/disapproval of certification. Julie participated in MDOT's response to USDOT's Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rule Making (SNPRM), and implemented the changes that resulted when these proposals went into effect in March 1999, including contacts with transit agency managers regarding submission of DBE Plans. As PTD's Procedures Manual Coordinator, Julie has been working with staff for the last year to update the Procedures Manual which is now available to staff electronically. Julie can be reached at 517/335-2533 or by E-mail at benvenutoj@mdot.state.mi.us.

Lisa Lubahn is the Payments Coordinator and is responsible for development of procedures and control of PTD's purchase orders and payments for contractual grants. She provides financial analysis and information to other staff members. Lisa also provides organization and management of the division's Small Bus Roadeo.

Lisa may be contacted at 517/241-1893 or by E-mail at lubahnl@mdot.state.mi.us.

Barbara O'Meara is the Financial Analyst and provides financial administration for the distribution of the statewide Local Bus Operating Assistance and the Federal Section 5311 Operating Assistance Programs to assure that over \$156 million annually is properly disbursed to local transit agencies. She also is the Closeout

Coordinator and is responsible for administering the closeout of all division agreements, which includes initiating requests for audit, monitoring the status of audit disputes, and disposition of the audit findings. Barbara may be contacted at 517/241-3894 or by E-mail at omearab@mdot.state.mi.us.

Linda Williams is the Checklist/Contract Coordinator for the Passenger Transportation Division. She is responsible for coordinating and securing approvals of project checklists which are used to initiate statewide federal and state funded operating/capital projects with transit agencies. Linda works with division staff to develop contract language and expedite the processing of approximately 600 contracts per year. Linda may be contacted at 517/241-3221 or by E-mail at williamsli@mdot.state.mi.us.



Financial Management Unit: Back row: Angel Fandialan, Julie Benvenuto, and Linda Williams. Front row: Barbara O'Meara, Lisa Lubahn, and Lori Cole.

Around the State



Huron Transit Earns Community Recognition

In March, the Center for Community Living (CCL) in Bad Axe awarded its Community Recognition Award to Huron Transit Corporation (also known as Thumb Area Transit). This award recognized the cooperative, helpful, and friendly attitudes of the Huron Transit staff and its manager Ken Jimkoski. CCL noted that Huron Transit's willingness to change to meet the public's needs is commendable and very much appreciated.

Huron Transit, established in 1981, offers public and specialized transit service throughout Huron County, serves five area school districts, and operates in a demand-response mode. In FY2000, Huron Transit provided nearly 173,000 rides, 55 percent were elderly and persons with disabilities.

Midland Dial-A-Ride Wins “Most Improved Service” Award

The City of Midland's Dial-A-Ride Transportation Service recently received the “Most Improved Service” award by the Midland Regional Interagency Coordinating Council (RICC). RICC is a state-sponsored advocacy group for people with disabilities.

Midland Dial-A-Ride was selected in recognition of its ongoing commitment to the transportation needs of the Midland community. The award, given for the first time this year, was presented at the annual RICC Christmas Party on December 13.

The RICC committee responsible for selecting the winners is comprised of representatives from local agencies, including the Association for Retarded Citizens, Community Mental Health, Arnold Center, Family Independence Agency, Midland Center for the Arts, Give Me Shelter, People First, and Midland County Center for Independent Living.

Midland Dial-A-Ride, in operation for 26 years, is a demand-response system for travel within the City of Midland. In FY2000, Dial-A-Ride transported more than 87,000 elderly and persons with disabilities passengers, comprising nearly 60 percent of total ridership.

ICTC's Carrie Barker Honored for a “Heart O'Gold”

On January 30, 2001, Carrie Barker, a driver for Isabella County Transportation Commission (ICTC), transported a severely visually impaired woman to her home. When they arrived at the home, Carrie noticed that the driveway was extremely icy, and so she assisted the passenger to her front door.

After work that evening, Carrie and her son went to the home of the passenger and chipped out all the ice in her driveway so that she would have a safer passage to her home. It is this type of above and beyond the call of duty effort and special caring for people that makes Carrie one of ICTC's best employees. Great job, Carrie!



Iosco County Millage Passes

Congratulations to Iosco County for their successful millage vote in May. This new millage passed by a margin of 4 to 1 and will provide about \$50,000 for transit.

Good News from MDOT!

Within the next few months, MDOT's Passenger Transportation Division will publish and make available its first annual report regarding Michigan's public transit programs and services. The FY 2000 Annual Report will feature a summary of state/federal programs administered by MDOT, technical assistance provided by MDOT, state sponsored events, and FY 2000 program data for all of Michigan's transit agencies.

A copy of the report will be mailed to all public transit agencies in Michigan and other interested stakeholders early this summer. For additional information regarding the FY 2000 Annual Report, contact Jerry Willcutt at 517/335-2532 or by E-mail at willcuttg@mdot.state.mi.us.

New Drug/Alcohol Regulations Affect All Transit Drug Programs

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) issued new Part 40 Procedures For Transportation Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs last December. These new regulations apply to all agencies regulated by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA - for transit agencies previously under the Federal Highway Safety Administration).

While most new Part 40 regulations are effective August 1, 2001, two key areas were effective January 18, 2001. These areas are: the additional Medical Review Officer (MRO) requirements for adulterated and substituted test results (where specimens were altered to prevent valid test results), and the creation of a new Public Interest Exclusion (PIE) designed to hold "services agents" accountable for serious non-compliance with Part 40 regulations (services agents include laboratories, MROs, substance abuse professionals (SAPs), collectors, breath alcohol technicians (BATs), screening test technicians (STTs), consortia and third-party administrators (C/TPAs)).

You may have already recognized the effects of this new regulation - from increased number of MRO requests for the donor to contact the MRO, followed by delayed reporting of adulterated and substituted test results caused by these additional MRO review requirements. However, most of the other changes which will require action from you or cause changes in your program will not be in effect until August 1, 2001.

The Internet has excellent resources for you to learn more about the changes to Part 40. FTA has summarized these changes in the Winter 2001 issue of the FTA Drug and Alcohol Regulation Updates (www.fta.dot.gov, then click on safety and security, transit safety, drug and alcohol testing, and newsletters). Most of the other articles apply only to FTA regulations, but if you must comply with this DOT agency, this is a very good resource for you to read on a regular basis. If you would like a paper copy of this publication, contact Amy Edgar at 517/373-2261 or by E-mail at edgara@mdot.state.mi.us.

The new regulations can also be found in the 2000 Federal Register, Volume 65, No. 244, and on the Web site (www.dot.gov, click on safety, then drug and alcohol safety, then 49 CFR Part 40).

New FTA and FMCSA Drug Regulations on the Internet

As a response to the USDOT new Part 40 regulations, each DOT modal agency (transit, aeronautics, etc.) responded April 30, 2001, with their own proposed regulations. These documents are located in the 2001 Federal Register, Volume 66, No. 8 or you may also access specific modal Web sites:

FTA: transit-safety. www.volpe.dot.gov (click on drug and alcohol testing, then regulations and updates)

FMCSA: www.fmsca.dot.gov (click on rules and regulations, then drug and alcohol regulations)

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Amy Edgar at 517/373-2261 or by E-mail at edgara@mdot.state.mi.us.

Training Requirements Under the New Drug and Alcohol Regulations

Recently, several Michigan transit agencies received an advertisement from a training company which seemed to indicate that the new USDOT drug and alcohol regulations require additional employee training (operators, supervisors, etc.). Because the USDOT logo was used on the advertisement, many transit agencies thought this correspondence was from the USDOT -- which it was *not*.

The new regulations only require additional training for specific service providers you may use for your program, such as specimen collectors, breath alcohol technicians, and medical review officers. If you have any questions on the new USDOT drug and alcohol regulations, please contact Amy Edgar at 517/373-2261 or by E-mail at edgara@mdot.state.mi.us.



"Providing the highest quality transportation services for economic benefit and improved quality of life."

Perspective

My Mother and Yours

By Cynthia Pierce

My mother, Irene Pierce, is an 81-year old end-stage renal disease patient. She experienced total kidney failure in 1998, after more than 20 years of battling hypertension, diabetes and congestive heart failure. She is now dialyzed three times a week at the Gambro Dialysis Center in Detroit, Michigan.

Before she became ill, she was a strong and fiercely independent woman. She worked all of her life as a registered nurse, first for 13 years in the military where she rose to the rank of Captain, then for 35 years in the private sector. She always had a strong sense of family. Being one of the youngest of 12 girls and one boy from North Carolina, she always told me that family takes care of family.

Being diagnosed with renal failure was both a blessing and a curse for my mother. The diagnosis was a blessing because it explained why she was tired, weak and nauseated, why she had no appetite, why her legs and ankles were swollen, and why she was losing so much weight. It was a curse because she was told that she was not a viable candidate for a transplant due to her age and her other ailments. She knew that to live she would be dependent upon a machine three times a week for the rest of her life.

The dialysis treatment left her weak, nauseated and confused, so much so that my mother could not drive home after her treatments. The dialysis center did not have its own transportation, however it did offer a list of transportation companies. So began my transportation nightmare.

I contacted the companies and others and the costs were astronomical, most of them ranging from \$37 to \$89 per one-way trip. Doing the math, at those prices, it would \$78 to \$178 per day, at three times a week equals to \$234 to \$534 or an unaffordable \$11,988 to \$27,768 a year. None of it was covered by Medicare or Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, her secondary health care carrier. It was suggested that she apply for Medicaid because then her transportation would be covered, but she was ineligible because she and my father were just above the financial limits.

One of the transportation sources listed was Metro Lift, the city of Detroit's paratransit service. When I called Detroit's Metro Lift, I was told that they will only go a mile off of their main transit routes, that they only serve Detroit, and that she had to be ADA certified. Typical paratransit service is just not meant to provide the type of transit my mother needed. At \$2.50 each way, it was within her means, and the bus came right to her door and took her to the Gambro Dialysis Center in Detroit. I wanted to pay monthly but that convenience was not available, so I always had to make sure that she had correct change because \$2.50 could mean her life.

As the disease progressed, my mother became more frail and weak. Her gait became unsteady and her hands trembled. Even with a four-prong cane, then a walker, she'd fall. She'd lost more than 60 lbs. and now weighed less than 100 lbs. On Dec. 12, she was rushed from the dialysis center to the emergency room, her

seventh emergency room visit in the past year. As with most of the other visits, she was hospitalized, this time for more than three weeks suffering from internal bleeding, dehydration, and congestive heart failure.

When my mother's condition stabilized, the hospital was more than eager to discharge her. The insurance companies were going to stop paying because on paper she was well enough. The doctors felt that my mother was not yet able to take care of herself, so they urged her to go to a nursing care facility for extended skilled nursing treatment. As my mother said, "All I want to be able to do is to get strong enough to walk again."

So during the holidays, the hospital gave me a book of nursing care facilities and said to find at least five. At one point I felt so overwhelmed by the hospital's urgency to find a place that I simply made cold calls of several facilities clustered in an area of the city. If the facility looked decent from the outside, I'd go in and ask for a tour.

I knew my mother wanted to go to a nursing home near me in Southfield, Michigan, a suburb just outside of Detroit. I soon discovered that this created another transportation problem. None of the nursing homes provide transportation. They said that mobility is the responsibility of the patient/resident, which didn't make sense because if she was well enough to drive or had someone who could take care of her, she wouldn't need to be there. One agency suggested that my mother take one service as far as the city limits, get off the bus and wait to transfer to the other city's service. Obviously in her condition, that was not a viable solution. My mother was trapped by these invisible boundaries that kept her from the medical source that would keep her alive.

Another solution: move my mother to a dialysis facility along a transit route. I've tried relocating her to a dialysis facility in Southfield or somewhere nearby, but they are all filled.

Hospitals, nursing homes, transportation systems and other services whose sole purpose is to extend themselves to help those in need are bound by bureaucratic red tape, civil regulations, boundaries and barriers. Bound so tight that they are unable to reach those who need them the most. The term continuum of care is widely used to connote a system that works together to ensure a higher quality of life. But in reality, there is no continuum, just a series of false starts and abrupt stops, from which the person finds the best route for themselves. Sometimes there is no route and the person is left with no place else to go.

ADA UPDATE

ADA Rule Amendment for OTRB Carriers

In response to a U.S. Court of Appeals ruling in November, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) has amended the ADA regulations for over-the-road buses (OTRBs) by removing the provision requiring compensation to passengers with disabilities who do not receive required service. The amendment is effective March 8, 2001.

The interim final rule also clarifies the information collection requirements and postpones until October 29, 2001 (large operators) and October 28, 2002 (small operators) the requirement for bus companies to submit information on ridership, route service, and acquisition of buses to the USDOT.

Detailed information regarding the interim final rule can be found in the Federal Register, Vol. 66, No. 25, dated February 6, 2001.

“Letters of Finding” Posted on the Internet

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) now posts “letters of finding” on the Internet. The “letters of finding” are in response to ADA complaints filed with FTA’s Office of Civil Rights.

The “letters of finding” can be accessed at www.fta.dot.gov/office/civrights/lof/lof.html. Transit agencies may find this information useful when dealing with issues involving similar facts.

Wheelchair Securement Issue Continues

The Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) Office of Civil Rights continues to receive complaints regarding mandatory wheelchair securement. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations allow transit agencies to establish a policy that requires the securement of wheelchairs (49 CFR Section 37.165(c)(3)). Failure of an individual to permit his or her wheelchair to be secured can result in a trip denial. On the other hand, a transit agency cannot deny a ride because a common wheelchair is difficult to secure.

Having an established written policy on wheelchair securement makes sense. If you do not have a written policy regarding wheelchair securement, we encourage you to add this to your existing policies.

A copy of the FTA ADA Information Bulletin #1 regarding securement of wheelchairs can be obtained from the FTA’s Office of Civil Rights, 400 Seventh St., SW., Room 10215, Washington, D.C. 20590.

The Passenger TransActions is a quarterly news bulletin produced by the Michigan Department of Transportation, Passenger Transportation Division for the public transit providers in Michigan. Suggestions or comments may be sent to Jill Adams, MDOT/Passenger Transportation Division, P.O. Box 30050, Lansing, Michigan 48909, or call 517/373-2051 (E-mail adamsji@mdot.state.mi.us). Alternative formats such as large print, braille, or audio-tape are available upon request by calling Rose Ann Ward 517/335-2598 (E-mail wardr@mdot.state.mi.us). Total quarterly cost to print 500 copies: \$72.75 (\$0.15 per copy).

Michigan Transit Strategic Plan Implementation Workshop in June

The Michigan Transit Strategic Plan is due off the presses in May. The plan includes four sections: initiatives selected as highest priority for implementation, situation audit that provides a quantitative overview of trends in transit, a focus group report, and a Michigan transit priorities survey report. Also, an Executive Summary with the highlights of the plan will be published. Both documents will be available on the PTD Web site (www.mdot.state.mi.us/uptran/pdt/index.htm) under Publications and Reports.

An implementation workshop will be held in June. A team of transit community leaders, other stakeholders, and members of PTD will develop an action plan, lead agency, time line, and associated costs. The strategic plan will provide a link between the transit strategic planning effort and implementation of the State Long Range Plan.

For additional information, contact Linda Tuttle at 517/373-7645 or by E-mail at tuttlel@mdot.state.mi.us. Anyone interested in participating in the implementation workshop should contact Linda by May 25, 2001.

RICC Honors MDOT Employees



On May 1, 2001, representatives from the Northern Area Regional Interagency Coordinating Council and the Cheboygan Regional Interagency Coordinating Council expressed their appreciation to MDOT and presented Certificates of Appreciation to Fred Simons, Rose Ann Ward and Phil Kazmierski for their diligence in pursuing transportation in Cheboygan, Otsego, Emmet and Presque Isle counties. Regional service in these counties is scheduled to begin in June 4, 2001, and will be provided by the Otsego County Bus System.



It's Rodeo Time!!

Pick 'em up, dust 'em off and put your hat on straight, pardner. It's time to get ready for the biggest Rodeo on four wheels! Bully is loaded in the chute and will be raring to go July 10, 2001 at the Holiday Inn South.

The Michigan Public Transit Association will be donating prize money for the top three drivers and the top "Rookie." The prizes are \$200 for first place, \$150 for second place, \$100 for third place, and a \$50 prize for the best score by a rookie driver. The top three drivers will get a free trip to Austin, Texas to participate in the 2002 National Rodeo (trip is in addition to your agency's regular RTAP allocation and reimbursements are based on current RTAP travel rates and guidelines). There's also prize money for the agencies with the top team winner and the first place individual winner.

Think that's good - it gets better! Hoekstra Transportation Inc. and ElDorado National are treating ya'll participating drivers to a Lansing Lugnuts baseball game and dinner at the ballpark. So be ready to watch the Lugnuts take on the Dayton Dragons on July 9, 2001.

So round up your best and bravest drivers who think they are a match for Bully. We need all yer drivers to make the 2001 Michigan Small Bus Rodeo a huge success. The registration information will be in the mail to ya'll by the end of May. For any additional information, contact Lisa Lubahn at 517/241-1893 or by E-mail at lubahnl@mdot.state.mi.us.

Dates to Remember

CTAA Annual Rodeo & Expo

May 20-25, 2001

Salt Lake City; Charles Dickson
202/661-0208

FTA/TSI Instructor's Course in Bus Operator Training

May 21-24, 2001

Sacramento, CA; 405/954-3682

APTA Risk Management Conference

June 3-6, 2001

Charlotte, NC; 202/496-4857

Passenger Assistance: Certified Basics for Trainers

June 4-6, 2001

University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee;
Wyatt Osato 414/227-3332

PTD Specialized Services Coordination Advisory Team

June 8, 2001

Lansing, MI; Lisa Funk 517/373-8746

NTI Customer Service and ADA Skills Training

June 12, 2001

Maplewood, NJ; 732/932-1700

PTD Transit Vehicle & Equipment Seminar

(see article on page two)

June 13-15, 2001

Higgins Lake, MI; Jill Adams 517/373-2051

PTD Management Advisory Team Meeting

June 21, 2001

Lansing, MI; Wynell Brush 517/335-2594

Efficiencies in Paratransit Scheduling & Dispatching

July 9-11, 2001

University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee;
Wyatt Osato 414/227-3332

Michigan Small Bus Rodeo

(see article on page nine)

July 10, 2001

Lansing, MI; Lisa Lubahn 517/241-1893

Employment Transportation

July 23-24, 2001

University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee;
Wyatt Osato 414/227-3332

APTA Transit Board Members Seminar and Board

Support Workshop

July 15-18, 2001

Denver, CO; 202/496-4853

MPTA Annual Meeting and Trade Show

August 8-10, 2001

Gaylord, MI; Cindy Zolkowski 517/324-0858

Transit Management

August 13-26, 2001

University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee;
Wyatt Osato 414/227-3332

PTD Financial Management Training

August 29-31, 2001

Marquette; Karen Stotts 517/335-2529

September 26-28, 2001

Frankenmuth; Karen Stotts 517/335-2529

PTD Michigan Transit Conference

(see article on page three)

October 8-10, 2001

Midland, MI; Linda Tuttle 517/373-7645

Michigan Department of Transportation

Gregory J. Rosine, Director

Urban and Public Transportation

Philip F. Kazmierski, Deputy Director

Passenger Transportation Division

Kip Grimes, Administrator

Transportation Commission

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